

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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DRAFTED BY AF/I:LSLEZAK:HRB

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AF/W:JSEGARS

DEPT OF LABOR - JQUACKENBUSH(SUBS

IO:APALMER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 006705

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ELAB, OVIP, ILO, SL, US, ET, SG, FR, SZ

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO US OF GOSL MINISTER OF LABOR

REFERENCE: (A) FREETOWN 0023(NOTAL); (B) FREETOWN 2898

PARIS FOR CONDON

ADDIS FOR CALDWELL

DAKAR FOR INSKEEP

1. LAMIN VISIT FUNDED BY AALC ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS PROVIDED BY AFL-CIO. POSSIBILITY OF LATER VISIT USING IV GRANT HELD OPEN.

2. LAMIN MET WITH AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE; AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY AND SECGEN LANE KIRKLAND; SECLABOR JOHN DUNLOP; USG ILO REP NED PERSONS; STATE S/IL CONFIDENTIAL

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ADVISOR DALE GOOD;FRANK COWAN OF STAFF OF DEMOCRATIC

NATIONAL COMMITTEE; KENNETH COLBURN AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS; JERRY FUNK OF AALC; POSSIBLY WITH WEST GERMAN LABOR MINISTER WALTER ARENDT WHO ALSO IN TOWN. MAY HAVE HAD OTHER APPOINTMENTS OF WHICH WE ARE PRESENTLY UNAWARE. ACCCOMPANIED BY AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL REP IRVING BROWN TO ALL MEETINGS.

3. VISIT FOCUSED ON ILO SITUATION, US LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW AND AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. IN MEETINGS AT STATE, LABOR AND AFL-CIO CONCERN WITH ILO STRESSED BY USG AND LABOR OFFICIALS. LAMIN SUGGESTED USG DISPATCH SPECIAL ENVOY TO KEY COUNTRIES TO EXPLAIN LETTER OF INTENT AND TO UNDERLINE SERIOUSNESS OF US COMPLAINTS AND COMMITMENT TO ILO IN EVENT ABUSES CORRECTED. BELIEVES EXPRESSION OF HIGH LEVEL INTEREST WOULD HAVE GREAT IMPACT. RECOMMENDS THIS BE DONE ASAP, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CONSCIOUSNESS OF ILO BROUGHT ABOUT BY LETTER OF INTENT, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY BECAUSE HE BELIEVES JUNE 1976 ILO CONFERENCE WILL DETERMINE IF ANY POSITIVE ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN ON US COMPLAINTS. SPECIAL ENVOY COULD ALSO EXPRESS US CONCERNs RE UPCOMING KEY ILO ELECTIONS.

4. LAMIN ALSO RECOMMENDING TO OAU THAT ILO QUESTION AND LETTER OF INTENT BE PUT ON AGENDA OF MARCH LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN FREETOWN. IF APPROVED, WILL INVITE SPECIAL ENVOY TO ADDRESS MINISTERS AND PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION.

5, FYI: NEED FOR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE WITH MINISTERS' CONFERENCE MENTIONED IN STATE MEETINGS BUT NO REPEAT NO REQUEST FOR AID MADE. ASSUME SUBJECT DISCUSSED IN GREATER DETAIL AT AFL-CIO. POSSIBLY SEEKING AID FROM VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL SOURCES AS NOTED REF B, PARA 3.

6. RE PARA 4. THIS POSSIBILITY WAS RAISED OBVIOUSLY WITHOUT PREVIOUS CONSULTATION WITH AFRICAN COLLEAGUES. DEPARTMENT NOT YET PERSUADED OPPORTUNESS SUCH ACTION. CONTEMPLATES TAKING NO INITIATIVE THIS REGARD UNLESS AND UNTIL LAMIN SHOULD RAISE MATTER AGAIN, PROVIDING DETAILS AND CIRCUMSTANCE HIS PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD INDICATE LIKELY UTILITY SUCH REPRESENTATIVE APPEARING AT MEETING. END FYI.

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